



Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

March
2007

Who is infected with HIV but does not yet know?

Overview

Although it is impossible to determine who is infected with HIV but does not yet know, a proxy indicator is used to provide an estimate. People who already have an AIDS-defining condition when HIV infection is diagnosed (or who are diagnosed with AIDS within two months of HIV-infection diagnosis) represent a population that may have first learned about their HIV infection late in the progression of HIV disease. Termed “concurrent diagnosis”, it is likely that people who are diagnosed with both HIV infection and AIDS within two months have been infected for some time prior to learning their HIV-infection status and were unaware of their status. As such, the profile of people who are concurrently diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS may approximate those who are infected, but do not know it.

The most distinct factor associated with concurrent diagnoses is place of birth. Among people born outside the US, who were diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2003 and 2005, 36% were also diagnosed with AIDS within two months; compared to 25% of people born in the US and 26% of people born in Puerto Rico or other US dependencies (countries that are supported and governed by the US). Additionally, 32% of black (non-Hispanic) individuals with HIV infection were concurrently diagnosed, compared to 26% of white (non-Hispanic) and 27% of Hispanic individuals. However, these differences by race/ethnicity are strongly associated with place of birth. Differences also exist by age category, with older individuals having higher proportions of concurrent HIV and AIDS diagnoses.

The following summary describes concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses in more depth.

General Statistics

- Within the three-year period 2003 to 2005, 752 people were diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS within two months of each other, representing 28% of the 2,682 diagnoses of HIV infection during this time period.

- Nationally, of all HIV infections diagnosed in 2004 (in 33 areas with confidential name-based HIV reporting), 40% were diagnosed with AIDS within 12 months¹, compared to 32% of HIV infections diagnosed in Massachusetts within the three-year period 2003 to 2005.

Note: The percentage of HIV infections diagnosed with AIDS within 12 months in Massachusetts is presented for comparison to the national percentage. All other percentages of concurrent diagnosis in Massachusetts include HIV infection diagnoses that are diagnosed with AIDS within 2 months. A three year range (2003-2005) is presented for Massachusetts, while the midpoint of that range (2004) is presented for the US.

Concurrent Diagnoses by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

- Among all people diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2003 to 2005, a similar proportion of males as females were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS (29% vs. 27%).
- Across race/ethnicity, between 2003 and 2005, Asian/Pacific Islanders diagnosed with HIV infection had the highest proportion of concurrent AIDS diagnosis at 36%.
- Thirty-two percent of black (non-Hispanic) individuals, 26% of white (non-Hispanic) individuals and 27% of Hispanic individuals with HIV infection were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS within the three-year period 2003 to 2005.

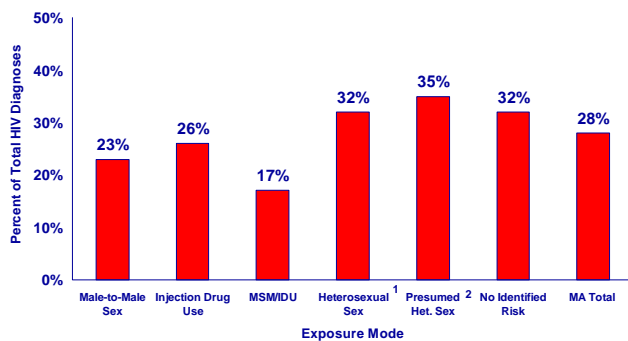
Concurrent Diagnoses by Exposure Mode

- Among all people diagnosed with HIV infection, people exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex (with partners of known risk and HIV status) and presumed heterosexual sex (with partners of unknown risk and unknown HIV status) have a higher proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses than people exposed through other modes.

For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix

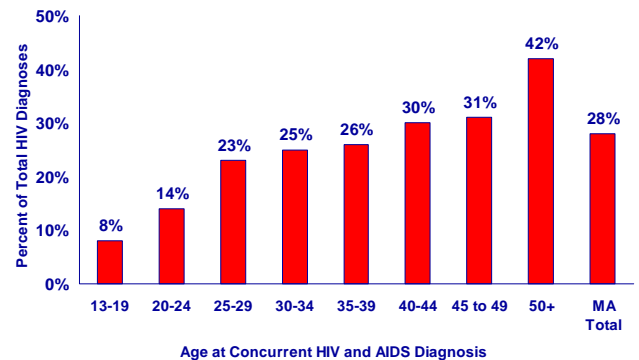
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Figure 1. Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS Within 2 Months by Exposure Mode: Massachusetts, 2003–2005



¹ heterosexual sex with partners with known risk and HIV status
² heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status
 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, data as of 7/1/06

Figure 3. Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS Within 2 Months by Age at Concurrent HIV and AIDS Diagnosis: Massachusetts, 2003–2005

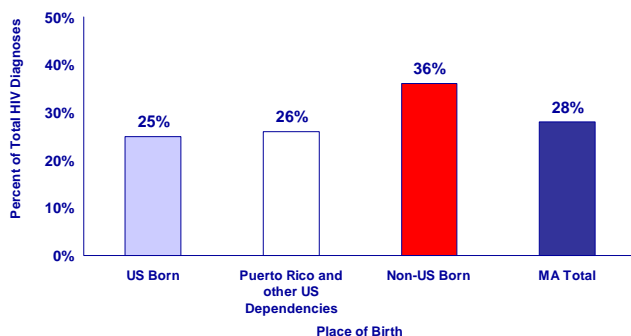


Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, data as of 7/1/06

Concurrent Diagnoses by Place of Birth

- Thirty-six percent of people who were diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2003 and 2005 and were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS were born outside the US, compared to 25% of people born in the US and 26% born in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies.

Figure 2. Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS within Two Months by Place of Birth: Massachusetts, 2003–2005



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, data as of 7/1/06

Concurrent Diagnoses by Age Category

- Among age categories, people with HIV infection who are age 50 and older had the highest proportion of concurrent AIDS diagnosis from 2003 to 2005 at 42%.

Concurrent Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Among all **males** diagnosed with HIV infection, 39% percent of Asian/Pacific Islanders were concurrently diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS within the three-year period 2003 to 2005 compared to 32% of black (non-Hispanic) males, 27% of white (non-Hispanic) males and 28% of Hispanic males.
- The highest proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis among **females** was among black (non-Hispanic) females at 32%.
- White (non-Hispanic) **females** with HIV infection had the lowest proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis across race/ethnicity, at 19%.
- Among all **females** diagnosed with HIV infection, 24% percent of Hispanic and 27% of Asian/Pacific Islander females were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS within the three-year period 2003 to 2005.

Data Sources:

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, All Data as of 7/1/06

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2005*. Vol. 17. Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2006. Also available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/>